Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets provide formal drawings for Figures 1-14.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (14)

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-5 and 7-13 are amended and claim 19 added. The amendments to claims 1-5 and 7-13 are to provide antecedent basis, clarify structural cooperative relationships, and to correct grammatical errors found therein. The amendments to claims 1-5 and 7-13 are non-narrowing. Also, the specification is amended to correct grammatical errors and minor informalities found therein. Further, formal replacement sheets are provided for Figs. 1-14. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully request rejoinder and allowance of claims 5 and 6. Claims 5 and 6 directly and/or indirectly depend from allowable claim 1. Claims 5 and 6 are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable, as discussed below.

In paragraph 2, on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-4 and 7-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. As discussed above, the amendments to claims 1, 3-5, and 7-13 provide antecedent basis, clarify structural cooperative relationships, and correct grammatical errors found therein. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 3, on page 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Kanno et al. (Kanno), U.S. Patent No. 4,285,510. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention of claim 1 calls for a paper feeding apparatus, comprising paper feed device comprising a paper loading board to load paper obliquely; an abutting surface arranged in a lower part of the paper loading board, the abutting surface abuts a bottom end of paper loaded on the paper loading board; a feed roller abuts a surface of the paper to feed the paper to a predetermined direction sheet by sheet; and a manual feed tray openably/closably attached to the paper loading board; a stopper located at a lower position when the paper is

fed from the manual feed tray, the stopper arranged to move vertically with respect to the abutting surface to lift up the bottom end of the paper when positioned higher than the abutting surface; and a stopper drive device lowers the stopper below the abutting surface when the manual feed tray is opened for paper insertion. Kanno fails to disclose these features.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office Action assertion that Kanno discloses a paper loading board (i.e., including element 2 and the upper surface at numeral 1 in Fig. 2) to load paper obliquely (see Fig. 1). In Kanno, element 2 is described as a movable pressure plate (col. 2, line 42). As shown in Fig. 1, cassettes 1, 1' hold the sheets of paper in a horizontal position in the copying apparatus. The pressure plate 2 supports the bottom of the stack of sheets of paper loaded in cassette 1 (Fig. 1). Looking at Fig. 1, the sheets of paper in cassette 1 are not loaded obliquely. It is not until the pressure applying lever 13' acts on the undersurface of the pressure plate 2' that the sheets of paper are pressed against sheet feed roller 11' (Fig. 1). However, even in this position, the sheets of paper are not loaded obliquely, but instead, are loaded from a generally horizontal direction into the copying apparatus (Fig. 1, col. 2, lines 30-40). Thus, Kanno does not disclose a paper loading board to load paper obliquely, as recited in claim 1.

Second, it is unclear how the Office Action is defining the paper loading board and the abutting surface of Kanno. For example, the Office Action states on page 5, "a paper loading board (i.e., including element 2 and the upper surface at numeral 1 in Fig. 2...and an abutting surface (i.e., surface at numeral 1 in Fig. 2)." But, Kanno states, "the cassettes 1 and 1' are each provided at the bottom with a movable pressure plate 2 and 2'," (col. 2, lines 40-42). As shown in Figs. 1-2, cassettes 1, 1' are rectangular shape and pressure plates 2, 2' are positioned in the bottom of cassettes 1, 1'. The abutting surfaces arranged in the lower part of cassette 1 that abut the paper loaded therein are the upper surface of the pressure plate 2, the

bottom surface of cassette 1, and the surfaces of the vertical sides and end walls of cassette 1. The only abutting surface of Kanno that abuts the bottom end of the sheets of paper loaded in the lower part of cassette 1 is the end wall of cassette 1 (Fig. 1). But, the end walls of cassette 1 are integrally attached to and extend vertically from the edges of the cassette bottom. Accordingly, Kanno does not disclose an abutting surface arranged in a lower part of the paper loading board, the abutting surface abuts a bottom end of paper loaded on the paper loading board as recited in claim 1.

Third, contrary to the Office Action assertion, the paper feed device of Kanno does not correspond Applicants' paper feed device as recited in claim 1. The Office Action on page 5 defines the paper feed device of Kanno as including sheet roller 11. But further down on page 5 of the Office Action, the feed roller of Kanno is defined as sheet roller 11. However, the paper feed device as alleged by the Office Action is the sheet roller 11 of Kanno. The paper feed device cannot comprise itself. In other words, the paper feed device of Kanno cannot include itself as one of the elements that makes up the paper feed device. This would be like claiming a house comprising a house. Accordingly, it is unclear which element 11 the Office Action is asserting corresponds to Applicants' feature or features as recited in claim 1.

Fourth, Kanno fails to disclose a stopper located at a lower position when the paper is fed from the manual feed tray, the stopper arranged to move vertically with respect to the abutting surface to lift up the bottom end of the paper when positioned higher than the abutting surface as recited in claim 1. As clearly shown in Figs. 1-4 of Kanno, the levers 13, 13' are secured to shafts 12, 12', which are connected to the copying apparatus and extend through each of the openings 1a, 1a' formed at the bottom of the cassettes 1, 1' respectively (col. 2, lines 44-48). The stacks of sheets of paper are each placed on one of the pressure plates 2, 2' (col. 2, lines 54-55). When the pressure applying lever 13 or 13' acts on the

undersurface of the pressure plate 2 or 2', the uppermost sheet of the stack of sheets is pressed by the sheet feed roller 11 or 11' to apply a sheet feeding pressure to the copy sheet and sheet feed roller (col. 2, lines 55-59). The shaft 12 and lever 13 (i.e., stopper) are not located at a lower position when the paper is fed from the manual feed tray. Instead, The shaft 12 and lever 13 (i.e., stopper) are in the upper position when the paper is fed from the manual feed tray (Fig. 1).

Fifth, Kanno fails to disclose a stopper drive device lowers the stopper below the abutting surface when the manual feed tray is opened for paper insertion as recited in claim 1. As shown in Figs. 2-3, the linkage mechanism of Kanno is just that, a linkage mechanism that is pivotally connected to cassette 1 and is not a stopper drive device to the paper feeding apparatus. Also, as clearly shown in Figs. 2-3, when the manual feed tray (i.e., upper lever 5) is opened, the shaft 12 and lever 13 are not below the abutting surface (i.e., the vertical end wall of cassette 1). Thus, Kanno does not disclose a stopper drive device that lowers the stopper below the abutting surface when the manual feed tray is opened for paper insertion as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, Kanno does not literally disclose each and every feature of Applicants' claimed invention as recited in claim 1 and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 is inappropriate. Further, for the reasons discussed, Kanno does not suggest the features as recited in claim 1.

Because Kanno does not anticipate or suggest the features of claim 1, Kanno cannot possibly anticipate or suggest the subject matter of claim 2, which depends from claim 1, for the reasons discussed with respect to claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In paragraph 4, on page 6 of the Office Action, claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Park, U.S. Patent No. 6,633,736, in view of Kanno. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention of claim 9 calls for An image formation apparatus, comprising a paper feeding apparatus including a paper feed device comprising a paper loading board to load paper obliquely; an abutting surface arranged in a lower part of the paper loading board, the abutting surface abuts a bottom end of paper loaded on the paper loading board; a feed roller abutting a surface of the paper to feed the paper to a predetermined direction sheet by sheet; and a manual feed tray openably/closably attached to the paper loading board; a stopper located at a lower position when the paper is fed from the manual feed tray, the stopper arranged to move vertically with respect to the abutting surface to lift up the bottom end of the paper when positioned higher than the abutting surface; and a stopper drive device lowers the stopper below the abutting surface when the manual feed tray is opened for paper insertion; an image formation device which forms an image on the paper; paper transfer device transfers paper fed from the paper feeding apparatus to the image formation device; a paper detection device arranged in the paper transfer device detects when paper is fed to the paper transfer device; and a feed control device drives the paper feeding apparatus to feed the paper on the paper loading board to the paper transfer device when a command to select an automatic paper feed is externally input to select a paper feed from the paper loading board, subsequently drives the paper transfer device to transfer the paper fed from the paper feeding apparatus to the image formation device when the paper detection device detects the presence of paper, and drives the paper transfer device to transfer paper inserted from the manual feed tray to the image formation device. The alleged combination of Park and Kanno fails to disclose these features.

As admitted by the Office Action on page 7, Park fails to disclose a paper feeding apparatus that includes a manual feed tray, a stopper, and a stopper drive device. Because claim 9 has features to claim 1 discussed above with respect to Kanno, those features missing in Kanno, Kanno fails to overcome the deficiencies of Park as applied to claim 9.

Accordingly, the alleged combination of Park and Kanno does not disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 9, the alleged combination cannot possibly render obvious the subject matter of claim 9. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-19 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:KPG/tbm

Attachment:
Formal Drawings for Figs. 1-14
Petition for Extension of Time
Amended Abstract

Date: January 23, 2006

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